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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

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DRAFTED BY ARA/EP:SMPRINGLE/ARA:WDROGERS
APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY
ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN
S/S:REWOODS
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 254495

LIMDIS TOSEC 052

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PE, US
SUBJECT: CONTRETEMPS WITH PERU - RECOMMENDATIONS

FROM INGERSOLL AND ROGERS

1. QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER WE SHOULD PURSUE CIA AND/OR PEACE CORPS MATTER WITH GOP, ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON ONE OR BOTH, OR STICK WITH PRESS GUIDANCE TO BE USED ON IF-ASKED BASIS ONLY. FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS ARE PERTINENT:

A. AMBASSADOR DEAN HAS UNEQUIVOCALLY SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON SIRACUSA AND ORTIZ WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA FLOR. SIMILARLY, DE LA FLOR HAS ACKNOWLEDGED TO US THAT THE EXPULSION OF THE PEACE CORPS IS UNRELATED TO ESPIONAGE. HE MIGHT STILL MAKE A HELPFUL STATEMENT ON THE PEACE CORPS, BUT WE THINK IT UNLIKELY. AMBASSADOR DEAN EXPECTS NO EFFORT FROM THE GOP TO CLARIFY EITHER OF THESE MATTERS.

B. AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA HAS OFFERED THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDA-
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TION: QUOTE -- FOR OBVIOUS REASONS WHICH I HOLD VALUABLE

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CONCERNING MY PERSONAL INTEGRITY AS A DIPLOMAT AND THE GREAT NUMBER OF FRIENDS I HAVE IN PERU AND ELSEWHERE IN LATIN AMERICA, I TRUST THE DEPARTMENT WILL PROMPTLY DO WHAT IS NECESSARY NOT ONLY OFFICIALLY TO CORRECT PRESIDENT VELASCO'S MISINFORMATION ON THIS MATTER BUT ALSO TO SEE

THAT THE PUBLIC RECORD IS CORRECT AS WELL BY DISSEMINATING THE TRUE FACTS OF MY DEPARTURE FROM PERU. UNQUOTE. FRANK ORTIZ, FOR THE SAME REASONS ALSO, STRONGLY FAVORS DEPARTMENT STATEMENT TO SET PUBLIC RECORD STRAIGHT. AMBASSADOR DEAN BELIEVES CLEAR, UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT OUT OF WASHINGTON CONCERNING AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA AND FRANK ORTIZ VERY MUCH IN ORDER. HE ADDS THAT STATEMENT SHOULD BE NON-POLEMIC AND DONE IN MANNER TO AVOID CONFRONTATION BETWEEN USG AND VELASCO.

C. THE NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST HAVE ALREADY REPORTED THE SPOKESMAN'S BACKGROUND STATEMENT FLATLY DENYING VELASCO'S ALLEGATIONS. THE RECORD IN LIMA PRESS IS MORE EQUIVOCAL, GIVEN ITS USE -- WITHOUT ANY CLARIFYING DETAILS -- OF AMBASSADOR DEAN'S STATEMENT THAT DENIAL DID NOT FULLY REFLECT IDEAS THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO CONVEY. -

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE OFFICIAL RECORD, WE BELIEVE THAT AMBASSADOR DEAN'S REPRESENTATIONS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER ARE SUFFICIENT AT THIS STAGE. WE ARE ON RECORD WITH THE GOP NOT ONCE BUT TWICE IN STATING THAT NEITHER OFFICER WAS A CIA AGENT OR ENGAGED IN IMPROPER ACTIVITIES. FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS COULD WELL BE NECESSARY, HOWEVER, IF VELASCO OR OTHERS IN GOP WERE TO AGAIN RAISE THESE ALLEGATIONS PUBLICLY. - -

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE PEACE CORPS, WE THINK IT BEST TO WAIT AND SEE IF DE LA FLOR WILL DO WHAT HE SAID HE WOULD DO. IF HE DOES NOT ISSUE A HELPFUL STATEMENT AND IF CHARGES OF POLITICAL AND INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES ESCALATE, WE MAY WISH PEACE CORPS HEADQUARTERS HERE TO ISSUE AN APPROPRIATE LOW-KEY STATEMENT REJECTING THE ALLEGATIONS. BUT WE HOPE THE MATTER WILL QUIET DOWN.
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4. QUESTION REGARDING AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA AND FRANK ORTIZ MORE DIFFICULT. WE SHARE THEIR STRONG DESIRE THAT THE PUBLIC RECORD BE SET STRAIGHT IN CLEARCUT FASHION. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT A STATEMENT BY DEPARTMENT NOW WOULD ATTRACT ATTENTION TO A STORY WHICH IS ALREADY MORIBUND IN U.S., AND WHICH WE BELIEVE IT IS IN OUR OVERALL INTEREST TO LET DIE. (THERE WERE NO QUESTIONS

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AT THE NOVEMBER 18 BRIEFING.) THE PUBLIC RECORD IS IN FACT STRAIGHT IN THE U.S., SEE PARA 1 C ABOVE, AND WE MAY PRESUME IT IS STRAIGHT AS WELL ELSEWHERE IN LATIN AMERICA AS RESULT OF UPI STORY FROM WASHINGTON, SEE PARA 1 D REFTEL. LIMA IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE THE QUESTION IS

UNSETTLED. WE COULD INSTRUCT AMBASSADOR DEAN TO USE THE PRESS GUIDANCE REPORTED IN PREVIOUS TELEGRAM IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT TO THE PRESS. THIS WOULD HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF SETTING RECORD STRAIGHT THERE AS WELL, BUT WOULD CONTRADICT PRESIDENT VELASCO MORE OR LESS DIRECTLY. ON BALANCE, THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND AGAINST THIS COURSE, AND AGAINST NOTION OF A SPECIAL AIRING OF THE POINT ON VOA.
INGERSOLL

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